Minneapolis VA Health Care System (MVAHCS) PGY-1 Pharmacy Practice Residency 2022-23: Inpatient & Ambulatory Care

This post-graduate year one (PGY-1) pharmacy residency program at the MVAHCS (also known as the "Minneapolis VA") is one of the first accredited residency programs with almost 60 years of continuous accreditation through ASHP. This program has been designed to develop practitioners with the high level of skill required to manage patient care as integral members of interdisciplinary teams. Graduates of this program have been successful in an assortment of clinical positions.





ASHP-Accredited

PGY1 – Pharmacy Residency

PGY2 - Pain Management and Palliative Care

PGY2 – Psychiatric Pharmacy

PGY2 – Geriatric Pharmacy

The MVAHCS is one of the ten largest VA medical centers in the country, serving more than 100,000 veterans in a six-state area of the upper Midwest. The MVAHCS provides a full range of patient care services with state-of-the-art technology, educational resources, and research. More than 100 pharmacists play a vital role in the delivery of patient care; working as a team with physicians, nurses and other health care practitioners to ensure America's veterans receive the finest care. Pharmacists routinely interact one-on-one with patients providing consultation and guidance on the use of medications through an independent scope of practice. VA pharmacists fully utilize their skills and knowledge in their daily practice.

The VA clinics provide primary care as well as a wide variety of medical subspecialty care for Veterans throughout Minnesota and Wisconsin. During the ambulatory care blocks, residents co-manage patients as part of an interdisciplinary team in a practice that has evolved over the years, allowing pharmacists to practice at the top of their license. In addition to completing patient appointments, residents write progress notes for patients they assess and (in collaboration with preceptors) have authority to write prescriptions, order laboratory and other diagnostic tests, consult other services when indicated, and develop therapeutic and monitoring plans for patient follow-up. Care is provided via face-to-face, telephone, and video appointments. Within primary care, patients are seen for a variety of medical problems. As part of this service, residents provide interim care for patients between visits to primary care providers. Care in specialty clinics includes metabolic and endocrinology, rheumatology, cardiology, hepatology, gastroenterology, pulmonology, nephrology, infectious disease and HIV, spinal cord injury, hematology and oncology, pain management, anticoagulation clinics, and more. Residents also have the opportunity to develop formulary management skills.

The main hospital has 348 beds and provides acute care services to psychiatry, spinal cord, neurology, surgery, cardiology, intensive care, and general internal medicine. There are also 104 beds in the Community Living Center (CLC). Residents spend their first block completing an inpatient rotation that serves as an orientation to acute care. This will assist the resident in becoming acclimated to inpatient pharmacy services and serve as a foundation for future acute care rotations and weekend staffing responsibilities. Additional inpatient rotations may include general medicine, ICU, cardiology, and rehab/transitional care wards.

MVAHCS is affiliated with the University of Minnesota (UMN) College of Pharmacy and School of Medicine. Residents serve as preceptors to IPPE and APPE students throughout the year. Didactic teaching experiences through the University may be available in PGY-2 programs based on interest. Other opportunities to provide education to pharmacy, nursing, medicine, and/or other disciplines during the year may include but are not limited to in-service education, grand rounds, morbidity and mortality lectures, journal club, and medication therapy cases.

Project/Research Requirements

The MVAHCS pharmacy residency programs use the inverted research model (IRM). During the first half of the year, residents are involved in data collection, data analysis, presentation, and manuscript submission as they finish this project. During the second half of the year, residents start a project to be finished the next residency year, performing the background research, developing the protocol, and obtaining IRB approval (if applicable). This allows residents to gain project management experience in two longitudinal projects during one residency year. Residents work with preceptors and the research team on these projects and present at the North Star Pharmacy Residency Conference in May of each year. A final manuscript is a requirement for completion of the residency. A medication use evaluation (MUE) is also required during the year.

Program Structure in 2022-23

Area	Duration		
Orientation	2 weeks (1 block rotation)		
Outpatient orientation	1 week (1 block rotation)		
Inpatient Care ¹	17 weeks (3 block rotations)		
Interprofessional Experience (IPE) ²	4 weeks (1 block rotation)		
Ambulatory Care ³	10 weeks (2 block rotations)		
Advanced Care ⁴	3 weeks (1 block rotation)		
Leadership, Quality, & Management	3 weeks (3 block rotations)		
Electives	10 weeks (2 block rotations)		
Interprofessional Experience (IPE) ²	Longitudinal (1 day per week for 11 months)		
Professional Service	Longitudinal (administrative)		
Project/Research	Longitudinal (administrative)		
Women's Health Consultative Service	Longitudinal (1 consult per quarter)		

- 1. Inpatient Care: residents will have 3 acute care block rotations, cardiology, general internal medicine, and critical care.
- 2. IPE: residents will have a block and longitudinal IPE experience based on interest. Areas include Infectious Disease, Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Center (GRECC), Academic Patient Aligned Care, or Serious Mental Illness (SMI is aligned with the MH resident only)
- 3. Ambulatory Care: residents will have two ambulatory care block rotations based on interest. Areas include Primary Care, Women's Health, Community Based Outpatient Clinics, Specialty Care (Rheumatology, Metabolic/Endocrinology, Pulmonology, Nephrology, Cardiology, Infectious Disease and HIV, Hepatology, Gastroenterology, and more), Spinal Cord Injury, and Anticoagulation.
- 4. Advanced Care: Each resident will have an advanced ambulatory care OR an advanced acute care rotation based on interest.

Elective Learning Experiences

Area	Area
Academic Detailing	Hospice and Palliative Care
Addiction Recovery Services	Home Based Primary Care
Advanced Specialty Ambulatory Care	Informatics
Advanced Primary Ambulatory Care	Inpatient Psychiatry
Advanced General Internal Medicine	Pain Management
Advanced Cardiology	Research
Anticoagulation	Serious Mental Illness
Antimicrobial Stewardship	Traumatic Brain Injury/Polytrauma/Rehab
Hematology/Oncology	Women's Health

^{*}Other elective learning experiences may be developed based on the residents interests and preceptor availability

Twin Cities, MN



The Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area has a combined population of over 2.4 million people. The Twin Cities are nationally recognized for their arts, most notable are the Guthrie Theater, Minnesota Orchestra, Minneapolis Institute of Art, Science Museum and the

Walker Art Center. Not to mention the many art festivals throughout the year. The VA Medical Center is located very near to both the Mall of America and the airport. Recreational activities span the four seasons, and the state is home to seven professional sports teams: Twins, Vikings, Timberwolves, Lynx, Wild, Minnesota United FC, and St. Paul Saints. The Twin Cities are also known for music and food.





PGY-1 Pharmacy Practice Residency Application Procedure (ASHP Code: 63101; NMS Code General PGY1: 190813; NMS Code General PGY1 with MH Longitudinal Experience: 190821)

Applicants must be a graduate of an American Council of Pharmaceutical Education (ACPE) accredited School of Pharmacy with a Doctor of Pharmacy Degree (Pharm.D.). All residents will be required to successfully complete a state board examination. Licensure may be obtained through any U.S. State Board of Pharmacy. It is preferred that the Board Examination is completed prior to starting the residency, however there is flexibility. You must be licensed within 90 days of your start date. U.S. citizenship is required. The applicant must be registered with the American Society of Health System Pharmacists' Match Program. An interview is required for all applicants.

Application Requirements:

- Complete online application through PhORCAS
- All application materials must be submitted via PhORCAS by December 31st of 2022
- Academic transcripts including pharmacy school transcripts with a description of the grading scale if not on a 4-point system
- Curriculum Vitae
- Letter of Intent
- Reference Letters (3) utilizing PhORCAS standardized form (hint: don't submit over 3 as only the first 3 will be read)
- Supplemental Essay (see website for details)

Some of the criteria considered in choosing residents include knowledge of professional practice, communication skills and ability to apply theory to practice, leadership ability, interest in the program, confidence, and professionalism.

See our website for additional information: https://www.va.gov/minneapolis-health-care/work-with-us/internships-and-fellowships/pharmacy-student-and-residency-programs/

PGY-1 Pharmacy Practice Residency General Information and Benefits

General Information:

Duration: 12 months

Number of Positions: 3 general and 1 general with a mental health longitudinal experience

Starting Date: July 3rd, 2023
 Model Type: Teaching, Tertiary
 Estimated Stipend: \$44,878

Benefits:

- Competitive stipend
- 4 hours annual leave and 4 hours sick leave per pay period (2 weeks)
- 11 paid holidays per year
- Eligible for federal employee health and life insurance
- Dedicated resident office space
- Free parking

Pharmacy Residents



PGY-1 and PGY-2 residents from left to right: Jesse Upton, Christy Varghese, Hailee Griffin, Siri Roberts, Rebecca 'Becky'
Thelen, Leyla Rashid, Sabrina Sturm, and Alyssa Isola



PGY-1 residents from left to right: Siri Roberts, Leyla Rashid, Rebecca 'Becky' Thelen, Alyssa Isola, and Sabrina Sturm

PGY-1 Residents	PGY-2 Residents		
Alyssa Isola	Hailee Griffin		
Email: Alyssa.Isola@va.gov	Email: Hailee.Griffin@va.gov		
Leyla Rashid	Jesse Upton		
Email: Leyla.Rashid@va.gov	Email: Jesse.Upton@va.gov		
Siri Roberts	Christy Varghese		
Email: Siri.Roberts@va.gov	Email: Christy.Varghese@va.gov		
Rebecca 'Becky' Thelen			
Email: Rebecca.Thelen@va.gov			
Sabrina Sturm			
Email: Sabrina.Sturm1@va.gov			



Program Director

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(preferred)

Our Commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

At the Minneapolis Veterans Affairs Health Care System, we are committed to fostering and sustaining an environment which celebrates diversity, provides equitable opportunities for employment and promotion, and supports inclusiveness in pharmacy culture. We embrace our differences as individuals and unite as a pharmacy team toward a common goal: to deliver optimal, patient-centered care for our nation's Veterans

Congratulations 2021-22 Resident Graduates:

From left to right bottom row: Alyssa Isola (Graduating in November – off cycle), Taylor Gill (PGY-1 general), Julia Buteyn (PGY-2 geriatrics), and Amanda Mueller (PGY-2 pain management and palliative care)

From left to right top row: Annie Hertel (PGY-2 psychiatry), Jesse Upton (PGY-1 general with mental health longitudinal exp), and Hailee Griffin (PGY-1 general)

